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WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1948

to which is appended the

Report of the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

and the

Report of the

WATER ENGINEER

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STAFF.*Medical Officer of Health :*

J. C. JOHNSTON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector :

A. H. EAGLE, Cert. S.I.B., A.M.I.S.E., M.R.San.I.,
Cert. R.S.I. as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

W. E. RAMM, M.R.San.I., Cert. S.I.B.
Cert. R.S.I. as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

District Water Engineer :

E. HAYMAN.

Assistant to Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector :

L. H. DOUGHTY.

Temporary Clerical Assistant :

T. L. LAWN.
(1.1.48 to 19.8.48).
W. T. THORNTON.
(15.3.48 to 31.12.48).

Clerk to Medical Officer of Health :

D. HUNN
(1.1.48 to 5.7.48).

WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Local Health Office,
Friends Hall,
Church Street,
Wells,
Norfolk.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1948.

Introduction.

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting herewith my Annual Report for the Year ending 1st December, 1948. I am sorry that owing to the fact that the position of the Medical Officer of Health's Clerk is not yet settled, the Report has had to be held up, although this year I am producing the Registrar-General's corrected statistics in my Report.

As in my last year's Report I have divided this Report into five parts to enable members to refer readily to any points of interest.

I wish to express my appreciation of the support given by the Public Health Committee in carrying out my duties during the year. Also I wish to thank the Clerk for his support, and the Senior Sanitary Inspector and Water Engineer for their continued support and loyalty.

In conclusion, may I say this has been a year of many administrative changes. I am also pleased to report that the health of the community in the Walsingham R.D.C. continues to be generally satisfactory.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. C. JOHNSTON,
Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Walsingham Rural District
Council.

PART I.

(General Report of the Medical Officer of Health).

1. STAFF.

During the year there have been several changes in the clerical staff, both in my office and in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's Department.

On 5th July, Mr. D. Hunn, clerk to the Medical Officer of Health, resigned and transferred to the employ of the County Council, and my office was moved to the Local Health Office, Friends Hall, Wells. Mr. Hunn continued to do this work as a member of the County Council Staff until the Local Health Office staff was brought up to establishment.

Mr. W. T. Thornton joined the staff on 15th March, 1948, and Mr. T. J. Lawn resigned on 19th August, 1948.

2. INFECTIOUS AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

(i) Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

(a) *Poliomyelitis* : One case occurred at Helhoughton, but this was not brought to my notice until well after the infectious stage had been passed.

(b) *Polioencephalitis* : One case occurred in the Parish of Little Snoring and the case was moved to Hospital. All necessary action was taken, i.e., isolation of contacts, etc., and no further cases were reported.

(ii) Tuberculosis.

There were 16 new cases notified during the year as compared with 21 cases in 1947.

The number of cases remaining on the Register at the end of the year is 68 Pulmonary Cases and 52 Non-Pulmonary Cases as compared with 65 Pulmonary Cases and 48 Non-Pulmonary Cases in 1947.

3. CANCER.

The incidence of deaths from Cancer during the year was 34 as compared with 32 in 1947. (See Part III.).

4. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION SCHEME.

On 5th July, 1948, when the National Health Scheme came into force this responsibility was transferred from the District Councils to the County Council. At the time of handing over this scheme the Council had reached the following standards:—

92% School children and 43% Pre-School children were protected as compared with 92% School children and 49% Pre-School children in 1947.

Twenty-nine School children and 172 Pre-School children were initially immunised during the first half of the year and 94 School children were re-immunised.

I would like to thank the General Practitioners, District Nurses and School Teachers for the great help they have given the District Council whilst carrying out these duties. I feel the District Council has every reason to be proud of the standard of immunisation especially in a rural community of this sort. I am satisfied they have handed over to the County Council an extremely efficient scheme, which has maintained a good standard of immunisation for many years. I only hope this level will be maintained when it becomes part of a larger scheme in the County.

5. HOUSING.

During the year the scheme of medical recommendation put forward last year has been slightly revised, giving three categories instead of two. These categories are:—

- (a) Those persons having medical need for re-housing, virtual or legal overcrowding, and sub-standard houses.
- (b) Those persons having any two of the above factors.
- (c) Those persons having any one of the above factors.

This Department submits prior to each allocation of houses, a list of recommendations under these categories to the Estates Management Committee. One member of this Department is present at these meetings. During the year 19 cases have been reported to the Estates Management Committee by this Department as being in need of rehousing and 18 cases have been rehoused. In all the Council have selected 23 tenants.

During the year 357 Informal Repair Notices were served and five Statutory Notices.

6. WATER.

(a) *Piped Supply*. In Fakenham this continues to be satisfactory in quality although there is still difficulty in coping with the demand, as the yield is steadily lessening. A copy of the

Analyst's Report is appended. It was possible to provide a piped water supply to Little Snoring by taking over the R.A.F. pumping station there in May, 1948. During the year investigations were made in regard to the pipe water supply to Blakeney.

No further progress has been made in the Regional Scheme.

(b) *Wells*. Samples from wells are still very unsatisfactory and a large part of the work of this Department is in keeping a check on these.

7. SEWERAGE.

There is little or no change in the Sewerage disposal schemes or works in the area. The Council is still hoping for authorisation of the schemes proposed for Walsingham and Fakenham.

Further urgent sewerage problems are present in the village of Blakeney as a whole, and the Council House Estate at Morston.

8. FACTORIES ACT.

During the year the Senior Sanitary Inspector has been compiling a register of premises coming under the Factories and Shops Acts, and Food and Drugs Act, and it is hoped in view of this, it will be possible to do more work under these Acts.

During the year 43 inspections were made and defects were found in 10 cases and in 9 cases were remedied.

There are no cases under Part 8 of the Factories Act. (Outworkers).

9. SHELL FISH.

During the year a considerable amount of work has been done by this Department in checking shell fish, also on a proposed canning factory, but this project has now unfortunately fallen through.

The position is still unsatisfactory and on 17th November, I advised the Public Health Committee that I was not at all satisfied with the efficacy of the proposed Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee scheme, in respect of the local industry, and I advised them to send a representative to take part in the Joint Committee set up by Docking R.D.C. to investigate the Mussel problem along the Norfolk Coastal Area. Representatives were also invited from the following:—Wells U.D.C., Hunstanton U.D.C., Norfolk County Council, and the Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee. All these have accepted apart from the Norfolk County Council

who have asked me to represent them. This Committee is to meet for the first time on January 3rd, 1949, and it is hoped that it will be possible to arrive at a solution to this problem.

I would like to state here, how very helpful Mr. R. Taylor, Clerk and Chief Fishery Officer of the Eastern Sea Fisheries Joint Committee, has been in all these investigations, despite the fact that we often disagreed on points of policy.

10. NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT.

The National Health Service Act, 1946, came into force in July, 1948. It has affected the District Council on several points:—

- (a) The cancellation of section 177 of the Public Health Act under which the Council supplied Drugs and Dressings, etc., to necessitous cases, has also cut out the authority under which the District Council purchased Diphtheria Anti-Toxin. This last point is most important as it means the Council still being responsible for the control of Infectious Diseases, is now unable to purchase drugs to carry out that control with regard to Diphtheria.
- (b) The Diphtheria Immunisation scheme as a whole has been transferred to the Local Health Authorities, as mentioned in my previous remarks.
- (c) This Act also brought about the decentralisation of the County Council Health Services and in order to facilitate administration, my office has been moved to the Local Health Office, Friends Hall, Wells. This system should be most effective for both Authorities and for the public.

11. ICE CREAM.

Whilst I was at the Royal Sanitary Institute Health Congress several factors arose regarding the control of Ice Cream, and since that time the Senior Sanitary Inspector has been having a drive on the improvement of premises of manufacturers and vendors of ice cream, especially mobile vehicles. It is too early to say what the results will be.

12. ACCIDENTS IN THE HOME.

Following my attendance at a course at the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents in London, in October, I recommended to the Committee that a Local Voluntary Home Safety Committee should be set up. This is now in the process of being carried out.

13. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

During the year the Council purchased a portable Bacterol Disinfector on the joint user basis with Docking R.D.C. and Wells U.D.C. I think this should provide us with sufficient cleansing facilities to cope with any epidemic that may arise in the area.

14. PILGRIMAGES.

Both the Senior Sanitary Inspector and myself were rather upset by the attendance of 10,000 pilgrims at Walsingham, and the Council called a committee of the various authorities interested to discuss the possibility of future sanitary facilities to cope with this large number of people. Unfortunately no satisfactory scheme was produced but all the interested parties agreed to co-operate as far as possible.

15. CONCLUSION.

This has been a busy year for this Department and it is unfortunate that there are not more tangible results to report. There has been an immense amount of work carried out on the Regional Schemes and machinery has been put under way to deal with the Shellfish problem and that of Accidents in the Home. It is hoped that more concrete results will be forthcoming during 1949.

PART II.

(General Medical Information).

I. GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

(a) Norfolk Executive Council, 54 Prince of Wales Road, Norwich.. Clerk:—R. J. Cobb, Esq.

(b) *General Practitioners.*

There has been no change in the General Practitioners in the area and all have accepted Service under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

- (i) Dr. T. S. Acheson, "Ballyduff," Blakeney.
- (ii) Dr. G. K. Arthur, The Oaks, Fakenham.
- (iii) Dr. J. G. Chappel, Summerhill, Fakenham.
- (iv) Dr. K. M. Little, Walsingham.
- (v) Dr. J. W. Meanley, Grove House, Melton Constable.
- (vi) Dr. R. A. Norman, Grove House, Fakenham.

2. EAST ANGLIAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

Senior Administrative Medical Officer,

Dr. J. B. Ewen, M.D., D.P.H.,

Croft-Holme, 117, Chesterton Road, Cambridge.

Since the 5.7.48 Hospitals have become the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, each Hospital being under the control of a Hospital Management Committee.

(a) General.

- (i) Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Norwich.
- (ii) West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital, King's Lynn.
- (iii) Jenny Lind Hospital, Norwich.
- (iv) Cromer and District Hospital, Cromer.
- (v) Wells and District Cottage Hospital, Wells.

(b) Maternity.

- (i) Norfolk and Norwich Hospital.
- (ii) West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital.
- (iii) Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge.
- (iv) North Cambridgeshire Hospital, Wisbech.

(c) Infectious.

- (i) County Isolation Hospital, East Dereham.
- (ii) Isolation Hospital, King's Lynn.

(d) Sanatoria.

- (i) Kelling Sanatorium, Holt.
- (ii) Bramblewood Sanatorium, Holt.

(e) Mental.

- (i) St. Andrew's Hospital, Norwich.
- (ii) Hellesdon Hospital, Norwich.
- (iii) Heckingham Hospital.
- (iv) Little Plumstead Hospital,

3. MATERNITY SERVICES.

(a) District Nurses (showing parishes and villages served).

- | | |
|---|---|
| (i) Nurse Spence,
Field Dalling. | Stiffkey, Binham, Field Dalling
Saxlingham, Warham, Crabbe,
Langham, Sharrington, Wigh-
ton, Cockthorpe. |
| (ii) Nurse Williamson,
Wells Road,
Walsingham. | { Great Walsingham, Houghton
St. Giles, Little Walsingham,
Hindringham, Great Snoring,
Egmere, Little Snoring, Thurs-
ford, East Barsham, Barney,
West Barsham, Gunthorpe,
North Barsham, Bale. |
| (iii) Nurse N. Baldwin
47, Scarborough Rd.,
Gt. Walsingham. | |
| (iv) Nurse Sainsbury,
The Street,
Thornage. | Swanton Novers, Melton Con-
stable Park, Hindolvestone,
Melton Constable Burgh,
Thurning, Briston. |
| (v) Nurse Ayres,
38, South Raynham. | East Raynham, South Raynham,
West Raynham, Helhoughton. |
| (vi) Nurse Boyce,
Glebe Farm,
Sculthorpe. | Gt. and Lt. Ryburgh Stibbard,
Fulmodestone, Pensthorpe,
Kettlestone, Gateley. |
| (vii) Nurse Bryan,
Well Cottage,
Wiveton. | Blakeney, Wiveton, Morston. |
| (viii) Nurse Cornwell,
3, West Hill,
North Creak. | New Holkham, Quarles. |

(b) Maternity Beds in Regional Hospital Board Establishments.

- | | |
|--|----------|
| (i) Stow Hall, Maternity Home;
Downham Market | 11 beds. |
| (ii) Beckham House, Gresham, Holt | 4 „ |
| (iii) St. Michael's, Aylsham | 2 „ |
| (iv) St. James' Hospital, King's Lynn | 3 „ |
| (v) Beech House, Gressenhall | 4 „ |

(c) Private Maternity Homes.

There are several Private Nursing Homes in the County, particularly in Norwich. The nearest to this district are in New Hunstanton, Sheringham and Holt,

4. AMBULANCE SERVICE.

This has been taken over by the County Council, the St. John Ambulance Brigade and British Red Cross acting as agents on their behalf.

The Ambulance Depots for the area of Walsingham R.D. are at Fakenham and Holt.

Car cases are covered by the Hospital Car Service.

5. RED CROSS AND ST. JOHN ORGANISATIONS.

(a) *County Representative for St. John Stations:—*

Sir Thomas Cook, J.P.,
20, Castle Meadow,
Norwich.

(b) *County Representative for Red Cross Stations:—*

Miss E. W. Griffith,
4, The Close,
Norwich.

For all correspondence:—W. A. L. Marriott,
M.B., Ch.B. (same address).

6. RED CROSS MEDICAL LOAN DEPOTS.

Medical Loan Depots are located as follows and serve surrounding villages:—

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|---|
| (a) Walsingham ... | ... | Miss H. Barclay, The Grange,
Walsingham. |
| (b) Blakeney ... | ... | Miss Page, High Street, Blakeney. |
| (c) Field Dalling ... | ... | Mrs. G. Ellis, The Cross, Field
Dalling. |
| (d) Melton Constable ... | ... | Mrs. Sterland, Sharrington Hall,
Melton Constable. |

7. COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES.

(a) **Infant Welfare Centres.**

(i) Binham ... The Reading Room.
Held 1st Tuesday each month.

(ii) Blakeney ... Men's Institute.
Held last Thursday (alternate
months).

(iii) Fakenham ... Court House.
Held 2nd Wednesday and 3rd
Thursday each month.

(iv) Walsingham ... Parish Hall.
Held last Tuesday each month.

(i) and (iii) are attended by a member of the County Medical Staff; (ii) is attended by Dr. T. S. Acheson, and (iv) by Dr. Little.

(b) School Minor Ailments Clinic.

Located in Fakenham Primary School Grounds and attended by a member of the County Medical Staff on Thursday of each month and attended by the Assistant County Medical Officer on the 3rd Thursday of the month.

(c) School Dental Clinic.

Fakenham C.P.

School ... 2nd and 4th Thursday, 1st,
3rd and 5th Friday each
month.

(d) School Nurse.

Mrs. Wainwright, Fakenham.

(e) Tuberculosis.

(i) Tuberculosis Officer Post vacant.

(ii) Chest Clinic at
Fakenham. ... Held 3rd Monday each month.

(f) Home Help Service.

The County Home Help Scheme began in the latter part of the year and Home Helps are available in the following places:—West Barsham, Blakeney, Briston, Doughton, Field Dalling, Fakenham, Hempton, Hindolvestone, Melton Constable, West Norton, East Raynham, Little Ryburgh, Little Snoring, Stibbard, Swanton Novers, Walsingham, Whighton, Wiveton.

8. VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC.

(i) Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, Norwich.

		<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
Mondays	...	5—6 p.m.	4—5 p.m.
Tuesdays	...	10—11 p.m.	11—12 noon
Fridays	...	6—7 p.m.	5—6 p.m.

(ii) West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital.

<i>Males.</i>			<i>Females.</i>		
Tuesdays ...	7—8	p.m.	Tuesdays ...	3	p.m.
Fridays ...	7—8	p.m.	Wednesdays	3	p.m.

(iii) County Isolation Hospital, East Dereham.

<i>Males.</i>			<i>Females.</i>		
Mondays ...	5—6	p.m.	Fridays	11—12	noon

9. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

- (i) Disinfection of premises is carried out by the Senior Sanitary Inspector's Staff using the portable Bacterol Disinfector.
- (ii) Disinfestation of bedding, clothing, etc., which cannot be carried out by this Department are sent to the Dereham Isolation Hospital.

10. LABORATORY SERVICES.

- (a) Public Health Laboratory.
Isolation Hospital,
Bowthorpe Road,
Norwich.
under the direction of Dr. L. M. Dowsett.
- (b) Public Analyst,
W. Lincolne Sutton, Esq., F.R.I.C.
Redwell Street,
Norwich.

PART III.
(Medical Statistics).

TABLE 1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	88,818
Estimated Resident Population	17,550
Rateable Value	£67,757
Sum represented by a penny rate	£274

TABLE 2. LIVE BIRTHS.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	164	164	328
Illegitimate	5	7	12
Total	169	171	340

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of
Estimated Resident Population 19.4

TABLE 3. STILL BIRTHS.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	4	1	5
Illegitimate	2	—	2
Total	6	1	7

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of
estimated Resident Population 0.40

TABLE 4. DEATHS (all ages).

<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
105	114	219

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of
estimated Resident Population 12.5

TABLE 5. INFANT MORTALITY. (Deaths of Infants under 1 year.)

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	2	2	4

Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births 11.8

TABLE 6. CAUSE OF DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
31. Premature birth	2	—	2
32. Con. mal. birth inj. infant disease	—	2	2
Total	2	2	4

TABLE 7. CAUSE OF TOTAL DEATHS.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
6. Tub. of resp. sys.	2	3	5
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	3	—	3
8. Syphilitic diseases	2	—	2
9. Influenza	1	—	1
11. Ac. polio-meyel. and polio- encph.	—	1	1
13. Cancer of buc. cav. and oesoph. (M) uterus (F)	2	3	5
14. Cancer of stomach and duo- denum	5	2	7
15. Cancer of breast	—	2	2
16. Cancer of all other sites	9	11	20
17. Diabetes	—	2	2
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	15	17	32
19. Heart diseases	26	34	60
20. Other dis. of circ. system	5	3	8
21. Bronchitis	6	5	11
22. Pneumonia	2	5	7
23. Other resp. diseases	3	3	6
27. Other digestive diseases	2	4	6
28. Nephritis	2	1	3
29. Puer. and post-abort. sepsis	—	1	1
31. Premature birth	2	—	2
32. Con. mal. birth inj. infant dis.	—	2	2
33. Suicide	—	1	1
34. Road traffic accidents	—	1	1
35. Other violent causes	3	2	5
36. All other causes	15	11	26
Total	105	114	219

TABLE 8. DEATHS ACCORDING TO AGES.

					Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 year	....	....			2	2	4
1 and under	5	....	....		1	—	1
5	„	„	10	....	—	—	—
10	„	„	20	....	3	2	5
20	„	„	30	....	1	5	6
30	„	„	40	....	2	4	6
40	„	„	50	....	4	3	7
50	„	„	60	....	4	11	15
60	„	„	70	....	25	16	41
70	„	„	80	....	37	36	73
80	„	„	90	....	24	30	54
90	„	„	100	....	6	5	11
All ages	....	....	....		109	114	223
Outward Transfers (deduct)					4	—	4
Total	....	....			105	114	219

TABLE 9. CANCER.

The following table shows the incidence of cancer deaths during the past 5 years:—

				1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.
Males	....	....	....	8	11	17	20	16
Females	....	....	....	14	13	17	12	18
Total	....	....		22	24	34	32	34

TABLE 10. SUMMARY OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS RATES.

		1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.
Live Births	....	19.2	16.8	18.2	22.7	19.4
Still Births	....	0.23	0.52	0.58	0.58	0.40
Crude Deaths	....	13.44	11.7	12.8	14.16	12.5
Infant Mortality	....	20.83	37.6	32.1	17.95	11.8

TABLE 11. SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

		1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.
Population	....	17,410	17,220	18,250	17,160	17,550
Live Births	....	336	292	246	390	340
Still Births	....	4	9	8	10	7
Infant Mortality		7	11	8	7	4
Crude Deaths	....	234	202	203	243	219

TABLE 12. BIRTH RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1948. PROVISIONAL FIGURES BASED ON QUARTERLY RETURNS.

				126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	Walsing- ham Rural District.
				England and Wales.		
				Rates per 1,000 Population,		
Births :						
Live	....	....	....	17.9	20.0	19.2
Still	....	....	....	0.42	0.52	0.43
						19.4
						0.40
Deaths :						
All causes	....	....	....	10.8	11.6	10.7
Typhoid and Paratyphoid				0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	....			0.02	0.02	0.02
Diphtheria	....	....		0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	....	....		0.51	0.59	0.46
Influenza	....	....		0.03	0.03	0.04
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	....			0.01	0.01	0.01
Pneumonia	....	....		0.41	0.38	0.36
						0.42
Notifications :						
Typhoid Fever	....	....		0.01	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	....			0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-spinal Fever	....			0.03	0.03	0.02
Scarlet Fever	....	....		1.73	1.90	1.82
Whooping Cough	....			3.42	3.51	3.31
Diphtheria	....	....		0.08	0.10	0.09
Erysipelas	....	....		0.21	0.23	0.21
Measles	....	....		9.34	9.75	8.84
Pneumonia	....	....		0.73	0.84	0.60
Ac. Poliomyelitis	....	....		0.04	0.05	0.04
						0.12
				Rates per 1,000 Live Births.		
Deaths :						
All causes under 1 year of age	....	....	....	34.	39.	32.
Enteritis and Diarrhoea	....					12.
under 2 years of age	....			3.3	4.5	2.1
						0.0
				Rates per 1,000 Total Births.		
Notifications :						
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	....	....	....	6.89	8.90	4.71
						0.0

TABLE 13. INFECTIOUS DISEASES. (According to Age Group.)

	<i>Under</i>													
	<i>One</i>	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-	<i>Total.</i>	
Jaundice	—	—	—	1	2	7	11	—	2	2	—	—	25	
Scarlet Fever	1	—	—	—	1	5	4	2	1	—	—	—	14	
Pneumonia	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	5	2	14	
Ac. Polio	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	
Food														
Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	
Puerperal														
Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	
Men. Menin- gitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	
Total	2	2	—	1	3	13	0	4	4	7	6	2	59	

TABLE 14. MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.

		1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.
Measles ....	....	116	106	82	144	118
Whooping Cough		102	4	45	32	82
Total	....	218	110	127	176	200

TABLE 15. TUBERCULOSIS. (Details of new cases during 1948.)

<i>Age Period.</i>	<i>Respiratory.</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory.</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0 —	—	—	—	—
5 —	—	—	—	1
15 —	1	1	—	—
25 —	2	4	1	—
35 —	2	1	—	—
45 —	1	1	—	—
55 —	—	1	—	—
65 —	—	—	—	—
	6	8	1	1
Totals :	14		2	

16

TABLE 16. TUBERCULOSIS. (No. of cases on T.B. Register end 1948.)

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Pulmonary	45	23	68
Non-Pulmonary	28	24	52
Total	73	47	120

TABLE 17. TUBERCULOSIS. (Details of new cases for last five years.)

			1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.
Pulmonary	....	M.	14	5	5	8	6
		F.	3	3	6	7	8
Non-Pulmonary	....	M.	2	5	2	3	1
		F.	3	3	2	3	1
Total	....	....	22	16	15	21	16

TABLE 18. DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION SCHEME.

The following table shows the immunisation state of the children in the district on the 31st December, 1948:—

	<i>Under School Age.</i>	<i>School Age.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Numbers Immunised	.... 717	2,105	2,822
Estimated Population	.... 1,635	2,288	3,923
Percentage Immunised	.... 43%	92%	72%
Numbers Reinforced	.... —	1,320	1,320

PART IV.

Report of Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The following is my Report for the year 1948.

I. GENERAL.

The year has been disappointing in its lack of progress in the field of main water supplies and sewerage. Little more than "paper" progress has been made under these two headings, both such essentials to the health and well-being of the population of the area. It is illuminating to read a report of seventy years ago in which reference is made to sewer ditches and doubtful water supplies then existing in the area. The same ditches and shallow wells, or their counterparts, may be found to-day.

A financial relaxation of building licensing has undoubtedly meant that more repairs have been done this year than last, unfortunately not to that class of property which concerns your Sanitary Officers most, that is, working class cottages.

Refuse collection has been extended to all properties in the district, and this, taken in conjunction with a nightsoil collection to two-thirds of the district, brings this district well in advance of any other rural district in the County in its scavenging service.

Changes of clerical staff have occurred in two cases, and the Assistant (Mr. L. Doughty) was released during the year to undertake a Government course of training. While the present staff are coping with routine duties a disturbing feature is that there is so little time available for re-visiting the many cases which arise. With the end of the Hobhouse Survey it is hoped more time will be available for this work.

The administration of Building Bye-laws was transferred to the Surveyor's Department during the year, and has led to a great simplification, both for the public and ourselves, in the handling of plans and supervision of new work in progress, formerly controlled by this and the Housing Department.

I attended meetings of Binham, Fakenham, Helhoughton, Great and Little Walsingham Parish Councils during the year answering public health questions. These contacts with Parish Councils were found most helpful.

Generally speaking I can see no cause for satisfaction or complacency in the year's work, and I can only hope that 1949 will see real, rather than paper, progress in public works and the

implementation of a grants-in-aid scheme for property owners which will lead to definite improvements in cottage property in the place of the patching up or complete neglect now taking place.

2. RECORD OF INSPECTIONS.

Public Health Acts.

Initial inspections	...	...	...	...	...	253
Re-visits	...	...	...	...	...	350
Schools inspected	...	...	...	...	...	24
Cinemas—Provision of escape from fire	4

Council Buildings.

Maintenance, repair or re-building visits	108
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District Scavenging.

Visits	266
Refuse tips	95

Infectious Diseases.

Cases investigated	30
Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	30
Tuberculosis cases investigated	...	...	...	...	...	6

Sewerage.

Sewage Plant inspections	...	...	...	...	...	86
Pumping Station inspections	...	...	...	...	...	22
Ditches inspected	...	...	...	...	...	14
Public Sewers inspected	...	...	...	...	...	53

Building Control.

Visits	149
--------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Building Bye-laws.

Visits	38
--------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

Food and Drugs Acts.

Food premises inspected	...	...	...	...	...	79
Visits <i>re</i> manufacture and sale of Ice-cream	...	...	...	...	...	20
Visits to Milk Producers' premises and to Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	85

Housing Acts. Houses Inspected:—

(a) Under Hobhouse Survey	1,351
(b) Other House inspections	116
(c) Visits <i>re</i> overcrowding, Council house applica- tions, etc.	131

1,598

Inspections under Factory Acts.

Factories with power	...	...	37
Factories without power	...	...	2

 39
Petroleum Acts.

Petrol installations inspected and tested	12
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	132

 Total 3,493

3. PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.

(a) Legal proceedings were taken against the owner of two dangerous dwelling-houses in Wood Norton, and the Magistrates made an order for the demolition of the buildings within twenty-eight days.

(b) The inadequacy of means of escape from fire at the Central Cinema, Fakenham, was reported to the Council. As a result plans of an improvement to the existing internal staircase and for an external fire escape were approved by the Council this year, and a start made upon the work.

The ceiling of the building was found to be unsafe and upon my advice the building was closed for extensive repairs on 2nd December.

(c) Following a pilgrimage of about 12,000 Roman Catholics to Walsingham in July, I reported to the Public Health Committee the effect from the public health viewpoint of such an occasion. A meeting of representative bodies occurred but little success can be claimed.

4. HOUSING.

The Majority of this work has been in charge of Mr. Ramm who has continued with the Hobhouse Survey of rural houses in twelve more parishes, and in addition 113 other houses have been inspected by the staff.

The houses inspected under the Hobhouse Survey fell into the following categories:—

Class I. (in all respects fit)	...	...	122
Class II. (fit but for minor defects)	...	...	311
Class III. (houses with major structural defects)	...	...	727
Class V. (unfit for human occupation and recommended for demolition)	...	...	191

 Total 1,351

Three hundred and fifty-seven notices have been issued in respect of these properties and five statutory notices served.

The categories are not final since deterioration is bound to occur before the full provisions of the Housing Act, including demolition and extensive repair, can be implemented, by which time it is believed many of the houses now in Class III. will have to be down-graded to Class V.

The demands of the Survey, and of current work, other than housing, do not allow a sufficient number of re-visits to be made to properties in respect of which notices to repair have been served, and although many repairs are known to have resulted from our inspections and notices, regular re-visits are hoped for when the Survey is complete.

Overcrowding even by the Housing Act standard, and certainly by the less harsh standard of modern sanitarians, is still prevalent.

One family in Walsingham consisting of mother and father, four boys (15, 11, 8, 5½) and four girls (7, 2, 1-9/12 and 3 months), all sleep in a room which is 12 ft. 8 ins. by 14 ft. 3 ins. with a small window. During the day they live in a room which is 12 ft. 9 ins. by 12 ft. 6 ins. This family has been reported upon on several occasions.

The careful consideration given by the Council to representations by the Medical Officer of Health regarding the allocation of Council houses to persons in urgent need of re-housing for medical reasons, or by the Sanitary Officers for persons living in unfit houses is most encouraging. It is unfortunate, however, that in nearly every allocation this year only a half or less of the families living in condemned or condemnable houses have applied for re-housing, and until a return is made to slum clearance procedure it seems that these unfit houses must be perpetuated.

The Council agreed that a number of derelict houses, condemned in or before 1939, should be demolished, and owners were circularised. Many others, though unoccupied, give structural support to equally bad houses still occupied, and, at the end of the year, 64 condemned houses were still being occupied, 12 of these under Defence Regulation licences.

The whole housing situation is brought into focus by the Hobhouse Survey figures up to date. More than 10% of the habitable dwellings in the area are condemnable, more than 30% are in need of major repair.

A high percentage of these houses are subject to the Rents Restriction Acts and the rents received barely allow for minor maintenance, leave aside major repairs.

On the other hand it may be argued that a fair return has been obtained by a succession of landlords on the original outlay, either in rent or by having cottages available for labour.

Only the practical problem of making people comfortable in dry, warm cottages with a wholesome water supply and reasonable closet arrangements concerns your Sanitary Officers however, but it is no easy task to administer the Housing Acts knowing that genuine hardship will result for the tenant if notices are not fully enforced, and most likely to the Landlord if they are.

5. COUNCIL BUILDINGS—WORKS SUPERVISED BY SURVEYOR.

The Scavenging Depot, Fakenham, was completed in June by Messrs. Fisher & Sons (Fakenham), Ltd., at a cost of £1,711 7s. 3d.

Designed by Mr. H. E. Gilby, M.Inst.Mun.E., F.S.I., the building comprises the former Fire Station with additional space built to house six vehicles, foreman's office, messroom, shower baths, dressing and locker rooms, and latrine. There is constant hot water and scavenging employees are thus able to go home completely changed and clean from their work.

The Pumping Station, Fakenham, severely damaged by fire in 1947, was repaired by Messrs. Allnatt (London), Ltd., during the year at a cost of £930 os. od.

Two electric motors have now replaced the suction gas engines and generating plant in use since 1914 at the Pumping Station, Fakenham.

6. SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Continued maintenance of about two miles of sewer ditches was undertaken. These obnoxious places can only be eliminated by the installation of proper sewerage in the parishes, and their continued existence, especially in Sculthorpe and Fakenham Heath, is a major nuisance.

The old and poorly constructed sewers in Hempton, Blakeney, Little Walsingham and Raynham were repaired during the year. Without exception these sewers leak, give off offensive odours, and have unsatisfactory outfalls without treatment of sewage.

The Council continued maintenance of North Creake and Little Snoring R.A.F. Station sewage works.

Forty-nine more premises were connected to the sewer in Fakenham during the year.

7. BUILDING LICENSING.

Work has been less under this heading following the raising of the licence-free limit of repair work from £10 to £100 and the freeing of the necessity for a licence for work up to £1,000 in value on farm buildings, factories, schools, etc., during the year.

Since September the Licensing Sub-Committee of the Public Health Committee has taken over the allocation of building licences for new houses.

Licences were issued as below during the year :—

<i>Type of premises.</i>		<i>No.</i>	<i>Authorised</i>
		<i>licences.</i>	<i>expenditure.</i>
			£ s. d.
New dwellings	... ..	2	2,588 0 0
Conversions to form new dwellings	... ..	13	7,143 0 0
Repairs—housing	... ..	199	29,009 17 4
Repairs—non-housing	... ..	128	6,882 0 0

8. DISTRICT SCAVENGING.

With the arrival of two more Refuse Vehicles in October, the collection of domestic refuse was extended to all parishes weekly (except five which are fortnightly). This system may be modified to a once fortnightly collection to the more rural parishes later in 1949. A nightsoil collection to 2,291 houses, twice weekly, has been increased to 2,317 houses.

An experiment to compost nightsoil with straw in the sludge drying beds at North Creak Sewage Works appears to produce an excellent manure.

The tips now in use are Toftrees, Wighton, Binham and Briston. Labour difficulties prevent all these from being first class but a good attempt to follow the principles of controlled tipping is made.

9. SALVAGE.

The value of salvageable material collected during the year was as under:—

	£	s.	d.
Paper	409	5	10
Bottles	2	13	8
Scrap metal	17	3	3
Total	£429	2	9

A Schools competition accounted for nearly ten tons of waste paper.

10. RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT.

The Council again contracted with the Norfolk Agricultural Executive Committee for the destruction of rats in the area.

Heavy infestations were experienced in field and village, greater than for many years past, the conditions of the summer favouring heavy breeding.

11. FOOD PREMISES.

(a) Seventy-nine visits were made to Food premises during the year.

(b) Twenty visits to ice-cream premises were made. There were eight premises registered for the manufacture and/or sale of ice-cream in the District at the end of the year. At the three premises where ice-cream is manufactured strict control is enforced, and a high standard insisted upon.

Seventeen samples were taken, fourteen of these were either Grade I. or II. (satisfactory) and three were Grade IV., decolouring methylene blue immediately, indicating an unsatisfactory product.

Two investigations involving samples taken at several stages of manufacture and swabs of the plant were taken and were followed by great improvement of the product.

Vendors of ice-cream from vans and carts have been circularised with the Council's requirements for this type of vehicle. An enclosed vehicle with permanently fixed washing facilities with hot and cold water supply is asked for.

(c) The following food was condemned as being unfit for human consumption during the year:—

MEAT.

Home-killed.

Pork	...	...	...	...	204 lbs.
Pork (Offal)	...	...	...	...	32 lbs.

Imported and canned.

Beef	...	...	...	...	145 lbs.
Corned beef	...	...	...	...	93 lbs.

OTHER FOODS.

Tinned or bottled food	...	...	...	...	503 lbs.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	8 lbs.
Fruit	...	...	...	...	480 Tangerines
Fish	...	...	...	...	170 lbs.
Shell fish	...	...	...	...	224 lbs.
Dried egg	...	...	...	...	7½ lbs.
Bread	...	...	...	...	908 lbs.

12. MILK PRODUCTION.

Eighty-five visits were made to Cowshed and Dairy premises during the year. Most of these inspections were to premises of non-designated producers, inspection and sampling of designated milk production centres being mainly carried out by the County Council.

The following shows the position on the Register at the end of the year:—

Wholesalers	...	...	...	106
Wholesalers and retailers			...	35
Producer/retailers		...	...	27
Retailers (non-producers)			...	4

Of the above 32 hold Accredited and 28 hold T.T. licences.

13. WATER SUPPLIES.

The following table of samples taken during the year illustrates once again how unsatisfactory is the water supply to many of the houses in the area. In addition, the year has seen a serious deterioration in the supply situation, and water levels at the end of the year were well below usual. Absence of autumn and winter rains gives an uncertain outlook for the coming year and it is believed the Council will have to cart drinking water, as is already happening in part of Norfolk, by the summer of 1949.

Total samples taken from private supplies	54
Unsatisfactory samples discovered as a result of the above	...
	...
	...
	36

I am,

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. H. EAGLE,

Surveyor and Senior Sanitary Inspector.

PART V.

Report of Water Engineer.

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Report on the Waterworks undertaking for the year ended December, 1948.

1. GENERAL.

(a) The borehole, pumping plant, mains, and high level water tower at Little Snoring R.A.F. Station was taken over by the Council during May, 1948, and is now under the control of the Water Department. The mains have been extended to supply Council Houses on "Oaklands" Housing Estate, and Holt Road, Council Houses, at Little Snoring.

This supply also serves two farms, the Children's Home, Police House, Bakers' premises and five private properties, also 86 families on the various R.A.F. Station sites.

(b) Test pumping was carried out at the small water undertaking at Blakeney, results of same have been passed on to the Council's Consulting Engineers.

2. WATER SUPPLY.

Water pumped during 1948 amount to 31,679,000 gallons, a daily average of 86,791 gallons, distributed as follows:—

Fakenham and Hempton	...	20,717,500	gallons
Daily Average	...	56,760	„
Meter Consumers	...	11,057,748	„
Daily Average	...	30,030	„

The number of premises connected to the piped supply in Fakenham and Hempton is 1,104, an increase of 30 during the past year.

3. ANALYSIS OF WATER SUPPLY.

Routine sampling of water for analysis arranged by the Senior Sanitary Inspector was satisfactory, sample submitted to the Public Analyst on the 20th October, 1948, reports as follows:—
 "This is a pure and wholesome water, quite fit for drinking and the purposes of a public supply." The report is fully endorsed by the high standard shown by the weekly bacteriological check samples.

4. WATERWORKS PLANT.

Overhaul of No. 1 Deep Well Pump was completed by the end of March, 1948. Pumping plant at Holt Road and Hempton Booster Stations have been running satisfactorily, all plant is periodically inspected by Engineer Surveyors of the Insurance Company.

5. WATER MAINS.

There has been no extension of Water Mains in Fakenham and Hempton during the past year, two main fractures occurred during December due to road subsidence and heavy traffic.

6. CONCLUSION.

The Council's Main Water Supply to the parishes of Fakenham and Hempton is still operated under difficulties due to the lessened yield from the well at Fakenham, which shows a drop of 5,499,000 gallons for 1948.

I am, Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. HAYMAN,

District Water Engineer.

W. Lincolne Sutton, F.R.I.C.

Norfolk & Suffolk Laboratories,

Clement Court,

Redwell Street,

Norwich.

20th October, 1948.

No. 123263. Book ZZ.

Certificate of Analysis of Water.

Sample received from Walsingham R.D.C.

Mark or Seal

“Drinking water from Council mains taken from tap at Council Offices, Fakenham, 5.10.48.”

Physical Characteristics Clear.

<i>Result of Analysis.</i>			<i>Grains per Gallon.</i>
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	nil
Albuminoid Ammonia	....	...	.0007
Combined Chlorine	...	...	7.8
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	.28
Nitrites	...	...	nil
Total Solids in Solution	...	...
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F.	...	...
Poisonous Metals	...	...
Hardness before Boiling (total)	...	...	20°
Hardness after Boiling (permanent)	...	...

Opinion:—

This is a pure and wholesome water, quite fit for drinking and the purposes of a public supply.

(Signed) W. LINCOLNE SUTTON.

